WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST AT SXSW

ANGEL OLSEN LEADS A NEW PACK OF MUSICIANS. PAGE 12

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Monday, March 17, 2014 www.metro.us | t:MetroPhilly | f:MetroPhilly

BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Road to the Final Four. The 68 teams in the Big Dance — including St. Joe's and Villanova — have their paths to Texas laid out before them. **Breaking down the bracket.** Who will be upset, which players you should know and why freshmen will rule the Madness. PAGES 21-25

SHALL WE DANCE?

Philly's St. Paddy's Day parade roundup

PAGES 06-07

Rihanna's found love in a familiar face

PAGE 13

Easy ways to boost your love hormone

PAGE 16

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1 NEWS

Local tweet

"And snow it begins."

You forget "Again!" @C_Peck71.

Giveaway

Toasting the new season

Metro would like to make a toast to spring. What better way to celebrate the arrival of the season than a refreshing glass of wine? One Facebook fan will win a three-month membership to Plonk Wine Club, letting him or her enjoy two delicious bottles each month. "Like" Metro Philly on Facebook and enter our contest before March 30 for a chance to win. Cheers!

Strike?

SEPTA, workers union in talks

The contract between the Transit Workers Union Local 234 City Transit Division and SEPTA expired on Friday, but there won't be work stoppage. At least, not yet.

TWU officials said that two more union contracts are set to expire next month, and if a strike happens, it will happen with all three of its divisions.

About 4,700 bus drivers, trolley and subway operators and maintenance employees are under the TWU umbrella, which encompasses about half of the SEPTA workforce. METRO

Winner

Whistleblower gets $75K for 'asbestos' claim in PAL center

Officer Paul Zenak will get $75,000 in back pay for medical leave after winning a suit that he was harassed after making a good faith report about shoddy work by a contractor hired to remove asbestos from a PAL center, a judge ruled.

Paul Zenak / FILE PHOTO

"He was right. He took a significant risk in speaking up and he was punished for it," said Zenak's lawyer, Aaron Freiwald, after the jury verdict in Zenak's favor was announced in February. The city's attorneys may appeal. SAM NEWHOUSE

Prayers, but no answers in Amber Long murder

Vigil. Wednesday will be two months since Long was shot and killed.

The Healing Presence Singers perform on Sunday at a memorial for Long. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

The search for Amber Long's killer, from the perspective of her former Philadelphia University professor, Alan Hoffmann, has gone cold.

"I hope the police department is able to find the perpetrator," he said. "I think the family and the community needs some closure."

Hoffman joined a rally for peace held in Long's name, opposite of her apartment at the corner of West Ritner and Bouvier streets in South Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon.

Members of various religious groups and denominations gathered to offer prayers for the Long family and to speak out against violence.

Quoted

"It's a shame. She was a really good student. A really good person. There is just so many things wrong with this story."

Hoffmann

The 26-year-old woman was killed in front of her 50-year-old mother during a robbery attempt on the night of Jan. 19 in Northern Liberties. Two men attacked Long and her mother as they walked to their car from the El on the 900 block of Front Street. Long was shot after her attacker pulled on her purse. She died in her mother's arms.

Last week, Philadelphia Police Capt. James Clark said there have been no new leads on the investigation.

"I have the task force looking into it. They're still following a whole bunch of leads. But right now, unfortunately, I have nothing solid to report," Clark said.

Gene Foschini, who lived on the third floor of Long's building for four years, spoke about the aspiring architect's kindness and potential.

He spoke, he said, to be sure the city doesn't forget her killers are out there.

"It's great that they do this," Foschini said. "Helps keep it alive."

TOMMY ROWAN
@Tommyrowan
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Phils' great Schmidt fought cancer

Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt, who is slated to be in the booth for 13 Sundays this season during Phillies' broadcasts, told reporters Sunday he had been diagnosed with stage 3 melanoma last August and underwent chemotherapy and radiation.

"I had been in chemo-infusion centers sitting in a chair with a needle in my hand with people that are dying all around me," Schmidt told reporters.

Quoted

"Even though that was a tough couple months, I'm a very lucky man."

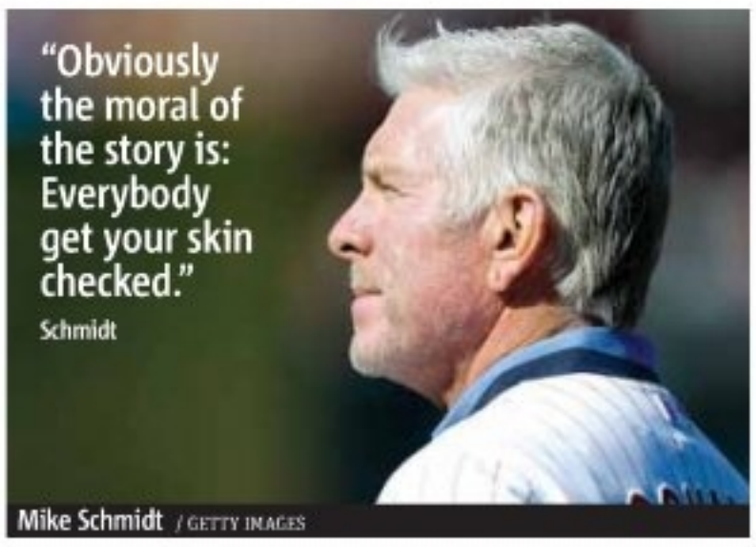
Schmidt

Schmidt said he learned about his illness when he went to a dermatologist to ask about a spot on his hand. He learned a valuable lesson he hopes he can pass on.

"Obviously the moral of the story is: Everybody get your skin checked," he said.

The three-time NL MVP hopes to return to camp next year to help with hitters. "I feel fantastic right now."

Schmidt has a scan scheduled for Monday to see how far his recovery has come. EVAN MACY



Mike Schmidt / GETTY IMAGES

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Nataliya L., USA Vein Clinics Patient

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Supremacist wins suit from Philly man; dies

Whack. An Okla. man died after he won a $50,000 suit against a local anti-racism activist.

David Yeagley died of cancer last week, likely killing any chance that a lawsuit he won against a local man will lead to its promised $50,000 payout.

"The lawsuit didn't really amount to anything in the first place," said Daryle Lamont Jenkins, who was sued for getting a white power conference, at which Yeagley was due to speak, banned from Washington, D.C., hotels.

"The only thing they have is a bunch of white supremacists yelling how they beat me in court. OK, you beat me. If I actually fought the thing, that wouldn't have happened," Jenkins said.

Racial overtones

American Renaissance is a white power group.

- Yeagley was going to speak at its 2010 conference in D.C.
- Instead, activists got three hotels to deny service.

The American Renaissance group booked Yeagley as a speaker for its 2010 conference. But Jenkins, of OnePeoplesProject.com, and other activists called hotels in the D.C. area to tell them the group was a front for the white power movement. Three hotels refused to host the conference.

In 2011, Yeagley filed a lawsuit in Oklahoma federal court against Jenkins alleging he used death threats to get the conference canceled. When Jenkins didn't respond, Yeagley won a default judgment — before dying from cancer two months later.

"He would [have had to file] in Pennsylvania for it to have any relevance — and if he did do that we would have shot it down, because there was a lack of jurisdiction, and the lawsuit itself was a joke," Jenkins said. "I never committed any threats."

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IRS

Man faces 75 years on charges of faking 25 tax returns

Edward Rorie, 49, was arrested Friday and could face up to 75 years in prison and a fine of $6.25 million for defrauding the IRS, prosecutors announced.

Rorie allegedly defrauded the IRS of about $100,000 by fraudulently claiming federal tax credits on clients' returns. METRO

Thanks goodness

The snow won't last

Valeria Meola, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, said she doesn't expect any snowfall left in the Delaware Valley to last very long this upcoming week.

While temperatures won't climb too much today, they should reach the mid-40s on Tuesday. The snow "should go away fairly quickly," she said. METRO

Yes, that is Quidditch

A member of the Philadelphia Honey Badgers, a local Quidditch team, practices in FDR Park on Sunday. Quidditch is a sport based off of a magical game from the Harry Potter series, where participants can only run if they have a broomstick between their legs and try to score by throwing balls through rings on either side of the field. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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The conversion of food to energy is what helps us burn calories, get rid of excess pounds and keep weight off. In a perfect world, our metabolism would be untouchable and we would never have to worry about unwanted weight gain, but in reality, our metabolism can be affected by a number of factors including: Diet, stress, and sleep deprivation.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day, Philadelphia

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia, a tradition since 1771, drew thousands to the City of Brotherly Love to celebrate the green weekend. This year's theme was "St. Patrick, Bless the Contributions of Irish Americans to Our Nation." The parade is one of the largest and oldest in the country. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER METRO

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has scheduled public hearings on SEPTA's Proposed Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015 (Fiscal year 2015) and Five Year Financial Plan.

The hearings will be held as follows:

Bucks County Free Library
Pearl Buck Room
150 S. Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 – 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Delaware County Court
County Council Meeting Room – 1st
201 W. Front Street
Media, PA 19063
Monday, April 21, 2014 – 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Montgomery County Human Services Center
Community Room – Main Floor
1430 Dekalb Pike
Norristown, PA 19404
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 – 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
Board Room – Mezzanine Level
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 – 11:00am & 5:00pm

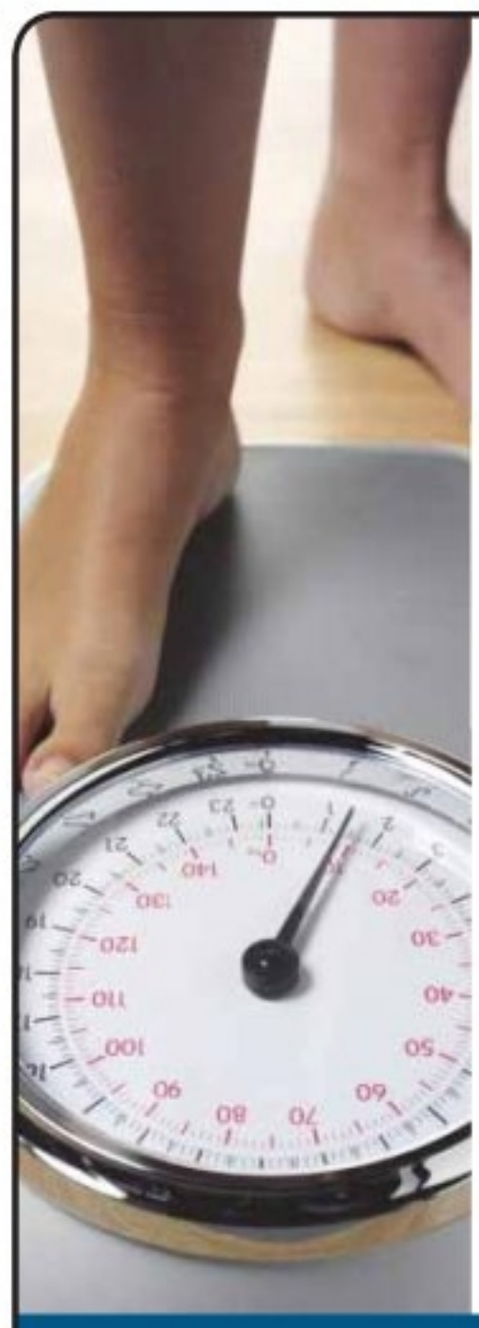
West Chester Borough Hall
Council Chambers
401 E. Gay Street
West Chester, PA 19380
Friday, April 25, 2014 – 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Persons wishing to file written comments may forward them to the Director of the Operating Budget Department, 1234 Market Street, 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 by April 29, 2014 so that they may be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner. Comments can also be sent via E-mail to hearing.comments@septa.org.

Persons desiring to present extensive comments and testimony are encouraged to do so in writing as the time for individual testimony may be limited in order to accommodate all who wish to speak.

SEPTA will provide a sign language interpreter at the public hearings upon written request received no later than April 1, 2014. Written requests can be mailed to the Director of the Operating Budget Department, 1234 Market Street, 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Members of the public may obtain a copy of the proposed Operating Budget and Financial Plan at SEPTA's website www.septa.org or by requesting a copy in writing from the Director of the Operating Budget Department, 1234 Market Street, 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107.



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Police hunt for motive as search for Malaysian jet spans hemispheres

Still waiting.
Some countries have not replied to passenger background requests.

Malaysian investigators are trawling through the backgrounds of the pilots, crew and ground staff who worked on a missing jetliner for clues as to why someone on board flew it perhaps thousands of miles off course, the country's police chief said.

Background checks of passengers on Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 have drawn a blank, but not every country whose nationals were on board has responded to requests for information, police chief Khalid Abu Bakar told a news conference on Sunday.

No trace of the Boeing 777-200ER has been found since it vanished on March 8 with 239 people on board, but investigators believe it was diverted by someone who knew how to switch off its communications and tracking systems.

The plane's disappearance has baffled investigators and aviation experts. It vanished from civilian air traffic control screens off Malaysia's east coast less than an hour after taking off from Kuala Lumpur en route to Beijing.

Malaysian authorities believe that as the plane crossed the country's northeast coast and flew across the Gulf of Thailand, someone on board shut off its communications systems and turned sharply to the west. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"The search area has been significantly expanded."
Hishammuddin Hussein.
Acting Transport Minister

Quoted

"From focusing mainly on shallow seas, we are now looking at large tracts of land, crossing 11 countries, as well as deep and remote oceans."
Hishammuddin Hussein

The Malaysian Navy ship KD Kasturi arrives at the Kuantan Naval Base to refuel and restock in Kuantan, Malaysia. / GETTY IMAGES

Investigation

Malaysia asks for broad international help in jet hunt

Malaysia has appealed for help and international coordination in a search for its missing passenger jet that stretches across two corridors from the Caspian Sea to the southern Indian Ocean, diplomats said on Sunday.

Although countries have been coordinating individually, the broad formal request at a meeting of ambassadors marked a new diplomatic phase in a search operation thought increasingly likely to rely on the sharing of sensitive material such as military radar data.

"The meeting was for us to know exactly what is happening and what sort of help they need. It is more for them to tell us, 'Please put in all your resources,'" T.S. Tirumurti, India's high commissioner to Malaysia, told Reuters.

The diplomatic initiative could become significant as nations ponder whether to share any military data on the Boeing 777's fate. **REUTERS**

Countries

22

Malaysian officials briefed envoys from 22 countries on the progress of the investigation after calling off a search in the South China Sea for the jet that vanished from radar screens more than a week ago, with 239 people on board.

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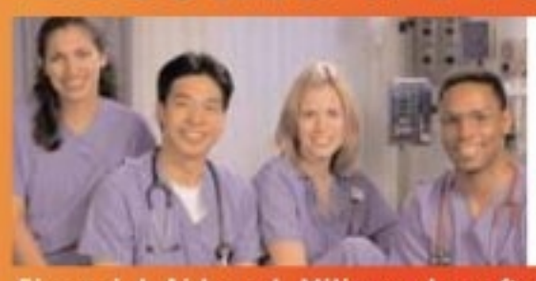

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Russian media say Crimea votes 93 percent to quit the Ukraine

Vote. A poll booth in Simferopol sees dozens of people lined up outside to cast early ballots.

A man votes inside a polling station in Yalta, Ukraine. / GETTY IMAGES

Russian state media said Crimeans voted overwhelmingly to break with Ukraine and join Russia on Sunday, as Kiev accused Moscow of pouring forces into the peninsula and warned separatist leaders "the ground will burn under their feet."

RIA news agency said 93 percent backed annexation, citing an exit poll released as voting ended at 8 p.m. Another Russian agency said turnout was more than 80 percent.

Caught in an East-West crisis reminiscent of the Cold War, Kiev said Russia's build-up of forces in the Black Sea region was in "crude violation" of an international treaty, and announced plans to arm and train 20,000 members of a newly created National Guard to defend the nation.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told Moscow that Washington would not accept the outcome of the vote, which is likely to favor union with Russia for a region which has a Russian-speaking majority.

The White House also warned Moscow to expect sanctions while foreign ministers from the European Union, which has major trade ties with Russia, will decided on possible similar action in Brussels today.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected Western accusations that the referendum was illegal, saying it respected the will of the Crimean people, while his foreign ministry said it had agreed with the United States to seek a solution to the crisis through constitutional reform.

REUTERS

Crimea crisis

US warns Russia it faces sanctions in coming days

The White House warned President Vladimir Putin on Sunday that Moscow would face sanctions in coming days and international isolation that will hurt Russia's economy, as Washington fumed over a referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region that it was powerless to stop.

"We are putting as much pressure on the Russians as we can to do the right thing," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said as voters in Crimea, under the control of Russian forces, decided whether to break away from Ukraine.

President Barack Obama's Republican critics accused the administration of showing weakness in the Ukraine crisis and said now was the time for U.S. resolve to prevent Putin from formally annexing Crimea.

Cyber attack

NATO websites were hacked

Hackers brought down several public NATO websites, the alliance said on Sunday, in what appeared to be the latest escalation in cyberspace over growing tensions over Crimea.

The Western military alliance's said on Twitter that cyber attacks began on Saturday evening.

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Crimes. Long road to hold Kim, North Korea liable for violations

Western and Asian powers will begin pressing this week for North Korea to be held liable for crimes against humanity documented in a United Nations report, but concede that their chances of influencing the isolated country are slim.

North Korean security chiefs and possibly even Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un should face international justice for ordering systematic torture, starvation and killings comparable with Nazi-era atrocities, U.N. investigators said last month.

Their findings, based on testimony from hundreds of victims, defectors and witnesses, were unequivocal. They demanded closure of political prison camps and action by the International Criminal Court.

Michael Kirby, a former Australian judge who led the independent inquiry, will officially present the report to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva today.

The forum, which commissioned the unprecedented investigation a year ago, will decide on how to handle North Korea at a session lasting until March 28.

"The fact that these violations are now deemed to be crimes against humanity triggers the responsibility of the international community to respond," said Julie de Rivero of Human Rights Watch. "It might be a long route, but steps need to be taken." REUTERS

By the numbers

120K

North Korean political prison camps are believed to hold up to 120,000 people.

South Korean conservative protesters shout slogans during an anti-North Korea protest marking the former North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il's birthday. / GETTY IMAGES

Nuclear market

US official: Iran pursuing banned items

Iran has pursued a long-standing effort to buy banned components for its nuclear and missile programs in recent months, a U.S. official said, a period when it struck an interim deal with major powers to limit its disputed atomic activity.

Vann Van Diepen, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for international security and non-proliferation, said Iran was still "very actively" creating front companies and engaging in other activity to conceal procurements.

The reported supplies do not contravene last year's breakthrough agreement between Tehran and six world powers to curb its most sensitive atomic activity in exchange for some limited easing of sanctions.

But such trade would breach a 2006 U.N. embargo banning the provision by any nation to Iran of materials related to its nuclear and missile development work. REUTERS

Ablaze over blasphemy

Hindu temple set on fire in Pakistan

Hundreds of angry Pakistanis attacked a Hindu temple and set it on fire in southern Pakistan overnight following a rumor that a member of the Hindu community had desecrated the Koran, police and community leaders said on Sunday.

The incident took place just before midnight on Saturday after locals in Larkana district alleged that Sangeet Kumar, 42, had torn out pages of Islam's holy book and tossed them down on the street from the roof of his home.

"Our Dharamshala [community center] has been gutted and the temple has been partially damaged. All the statues have been destroyed by the attackers," said Kalpana Devi, chairperson of the local Hindu committee. REUTERS

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The forecast remains cloudy for General Motors over recall protocol. / GETTY IMAGES

GM car owners feel angry, vindicated

Defective. Drivers feel road rage over the company's recall policies.

As details emerge about how General Motors Co. dealt with faulty ignition switches in some of its models, car owners are increasingly angry after learning that the automaker knowingly allowed them to drive defective vehicles.

Saturn Ion owner Nancy Bowman of Washington, Mich., said she is outraged that GM allowed her to drive a "death trap." She said her car had so many ignition problems she was afraid to resell it to an innocent buyer.

GM recalled 1.6 million cars last month because a faulty ignition switch could turn off a car's engine, disable its air bags and make steering difficult. The recall involves six models from years ranging from 2003 to 2007.

The problem has been linked to 12 deaths, the company says.

Documents released by GM this week revealed that the automaker knew about the ignition problem as early as 2001. Auto safety advocates say GM should have ordered a recall years ago, and GM has apologized as investigations by government agencies, Congress and the company itself have multiplied.

Angry customers are taking to social media to vent their frustrations. GM's Facebook "fan page" is smattered with complaints amid enthusiasts' comments. REUTERS

By the numbers

1.6M

GM recalled 1.6 million cars last month.

Low-cost Android

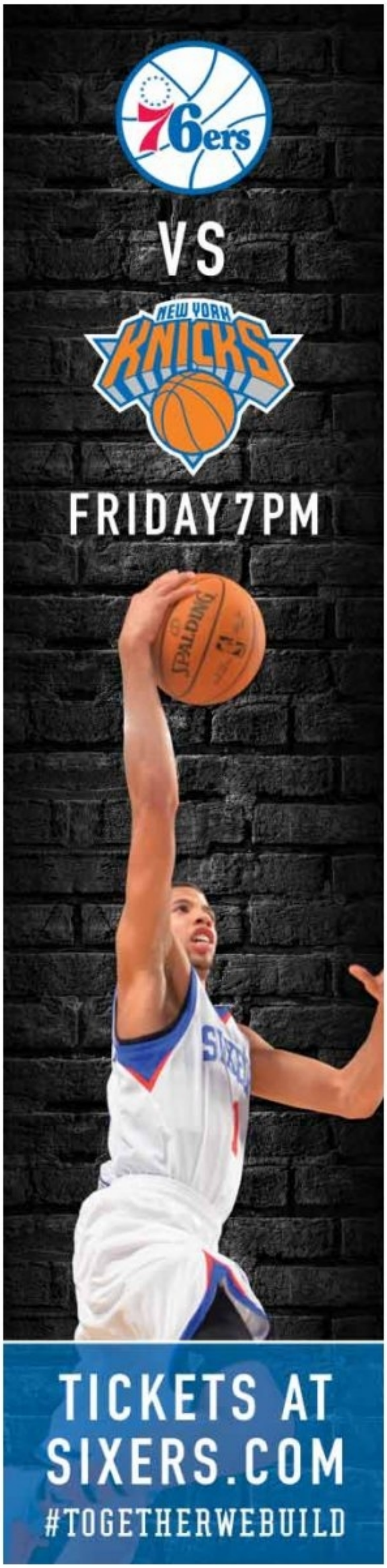
Haiti making its own tablet

Better known for producing third-world poverty and political mayhem — as well as a world-class rum — the Western Hemisphere's least-developed country has made a surprising entry into the high-tech world with its own Android tablet.

Sandwiched between textile factories in a Port-au-Prince industrial park next to a slum, a Haitian-founded company has begun manufacturing the low-cost tablet called Surtab, a made-up name using the French adjective "sur," meaning "sure," to suggest reliability.

Unlike the factories next door where low-paid textile workers churn out cheap undergarments for the U.S. market, Surtab workers are equipped with soldering irons, not sewing machines.

"Haitians have in our minds the idea that nothing can be done in this country," said worker Sergine Brice. "I proved that yes, we Haitians have the capacity to do many things. It's not just Americans or Chinese. We've got what they've got, so we can do it too." REUTERS



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2 CULTURE

New kids

Earning their Strypes

Another young band (though one without women) to receive acclaim for their performances are The Strypes. Ranging in age from 16 to 18, this Irish five-piece play the type of British Invasion blues that would be noteworthy for its authenticity alone even if the band weren't so young. But the fact that they're starting so early gives hope for a long career.

"If we could make a career out of this that would be fantastic," says guitarist Josh McClorey, 18.

Women up front at SXSW

Deep in the heart of Texas. The brightest stars coming out of SXSW are performers with XX chromosomes or with Xs drawn on their hands.

If this year's SXSW Music Conference in Austin, Texas, is any indication — and it usually is — then you're going to be hearing a lot more from the ladies. It's telling that the keynote speaker for the conference was Lady Gaga, who along with female-fronted acts like St. Vincent and Perfect Pussy generated the most "Did you get to see?" moments over the five days of music.

Angel Olsen is another woman who you'll be hearing a lot more from and reading a lot more about, and all of the hype is warranted. Hailing from Chicago, she stands perfectly still as her songs course through her, delivering lyrics that feel like important truths that you hadn't yet considered. And the way her voice can effortlessly shoot up an octave will make your heart do somersaults.

Another female-fronted act who hasn't received quite as much acclaim as Olsen, but are just as deserving, are the Casket Girls. This Savannah band, headed by sisters Phaedra and Elsa Greene, make spooky pop music and add goofy choreography to their dark lyrics. Chatting with the band in an old Airstream trailer at a nursery (interviews at SXSW can take place in unique locations) the sisters say there are more women than men on their current tour with the bands Stargazer Lillies and Dreamend.

"I think it's totally awesome," says Elsa of the amount of women making names for themselves in music. "It seems like it's been a totally male-dominated industry, so it's great. … If you think about it, women's [liberation] was really not that long ago and it takes a really long time for that stuff to take effect."

Meet Angel Olsen. / GETTY IMAGES

PAT HEALY
@metrousmusic
pat.healy@metro.us

Orwell and good

The kids are all right

Many times when interviewing musicians at SXSW, the discussions will take place at a bar over a few bloody marys. But the sweat-faded magic marker Xs on the hands of The Orwells are an indication that the band, all of whom are 20 years old, probably wouldn't get into the bar. The Chicago five-piece, which includes two cousins and a pair of twins, have been at it since high school (which was only a few years ago for them) and their tight bond comes across onstage. Their punk spunk, combined with a death-grip understanding of how the exchange of energy between audience and band should work, have made them one of the top must-see acts of this year's SXSW.

The Orwells are riding high. / PAT HEALY

Chatting with the band on a sidewalk on Fourth Street, what comes across is the youthful exuberance of their live show and a little bit of teenage cynicism. This is the third time they've played SXSW, so excuse them if they're a little jaded.

"Our first South-By, we found our manager," says singer Mario Cuomo. "That's like the best thing that it's ever going to do for us. Once you find a manager and a label that supports you, what the f— is the point of this?"

The point of it is exposure, and The Orwells are getting a lot of it, having already received seals of approval from the likes of Rolling Stone and Spin for their riotous performances here this year.

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1 Rihanna goes steady with Drake

Drake and Rihanna got close in 2011. Are they rekindling the flame? GETTY IMAGES

Hooray for Rihanna for making good life choices — it's been reported that she and Drake are officially official. Meanwhile, ex-boyfriend Chris Brown is back in jail. Womp.

According to TMZ, the Rihanna and Drake have been "virtually inseparable" while Drake tours Europe. A source tells the site that Drake is "in the best mood he's been in a long time."

And then there is "poor" Chris Brown, who is not gallivanting around Europe with Rihanna. Far from it. The rapper was arrested Friday and thrown into a Los Angeles jail after getting kicked out of rehab, thus violating his probation for the second time. No reason was given for his getting the boot from the Malibu, Calif., rehab facility where he has been living for the last four months — although we're guessing it has something to do with the fact he's Chris Brown.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2 Cyrus' latest bad tattoo

Miley Cyrus got a lip tattoo of a crying cat emoji and I have to tell you this as it's currently international news.

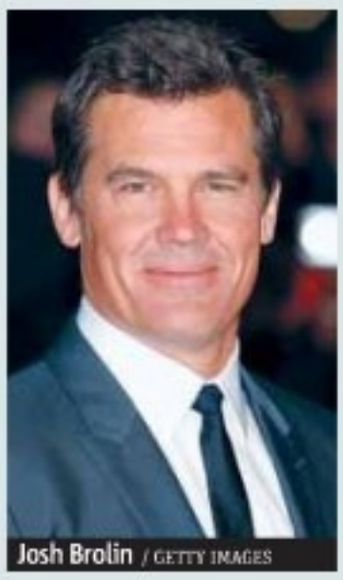
Cyrus' friend Katy Weaver posted a picture on Instagram of the two of them showing off their new ink with the caption, "We got tattoos on our lips… What the f—"

WTF, indeed. You should have at least gotten the "smiling poop" emoji, Miley. You disappoint us.

Our feelings exactly / INSTAGRAM

Talking points

Brolin on his past heroin use



Josh Brolin / GETTY IMAGES

Josh Brolin has never been shy about his wild youth in Santa Barbara, but did you know he even went so far as to try heroin? "That sounds so horrible when you put it like that, but yeah, I tried heroin," he tells The Guardian. "I mean, I never got into it and I never died from it, which is a good thing. I've had 19 friends who died. Most of those guys I grew up with, they're all dead now." As he's gotten older, Brolin — who spent four weeks in rehab last fall for alcohol-related issues — has tempered his thrill-seeking ways. "I used to think you should try to deconstruct everything, experience everything. Just get yourself out there. But I don't believe that anymore," he says. "Having adventures is all very well, but an imagination can make up for all that. That's the intelligent way to be. And it keeps you out of harm's way."

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THAT MOVIE THAT MOST INSPIRED 'STAR WARS' GOES HIGH-DEF

'The Hidden Fortress'

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For a long time, Akira Kurosawa's "The Hidden Fortress" has been known as the primary film that George Lucas stole from to create "Star Wars." (Sorry: "A New Hope.") Indeed, it features two bickering peasants (read: droids) who get caught up in a land tussle. They happen upon a feisty princess (newcomer Misa Uehara) and a displaced, in-hiding general (Toshiro Mifune). But on this new edition of the 1958 samurai adventure, Lucas admits he really only borrowed the idea of framing the story around the lowliest characters (the peasants). There is no Luke, no Han Solo, not even a Chewbacca. The closest to a Darth Vader is a polite general. The princess isn't even imprisoned. Most of the similarities, Lucas confesses, are coincidences.

But any reason, even a series of exaggerations, is good enough to get people parked in front of "The Hidden Fortress," which isn't one of Kurosawa's greatest, but is the purest entertainment on his CV. Unlike even "Seven Samurai," there is no message in "The Hidden Fortress," which concerns a defeated clan trying to rebuild by smuggling gold across enemy lines. (Just like "Star Wars!")

But it's quietly, mod-

The winning loser

'American Hustle'

Once-plagued director David O. Russell's third hit in a row didn't win a single of the 10 Oscars it was nominated for last year. Maybe that's for the best. The lack of trophies means we can view it like its characters: as an eccentric loser trying to look swankier than it really is. But Amy Adams definitely deserved her award.

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Toshiro Mifune is even fiercer than usual in "The Hidden Fortress." / THE CRITERION COLLECTION

estly profound. When our heroes appear to be doomed, the princess — who has had to pose as a commoner in order to survive — remarks that she's glad she got to see the good and the bad in humanity, to see "people without pretense."

"The Hidden Fortress" is a straight-up genre film, made by someone who'd become an expert. But it's no mere vacation. It was Kurosawa's first film in TohoScope, the Japanese equivalent of Hollywood's super-widescreen Cinemascope. His frames envelope the viewer in dry landscapes, from the rocky hills that hide the titular fortress to the plains, where the characters ride on horses, much like the films of one of Kurosawa's heroes, John Ford.

Kurosawa even had his own John Wayne: Mifune. He's somehow even more intimidating here than he is in other Kurosawas. But note the humanity he subtly conveys. Supposed to protect the princess, he's both humble and furtively funny, notable in the way he messes with the peasant protagonists — not like a bully, but in a way that's secretly warm. If he really hated you, he'd kill you. It's one of Mifune's best performances, hidden in a film that only gets deeper once you think to give it a closer look.

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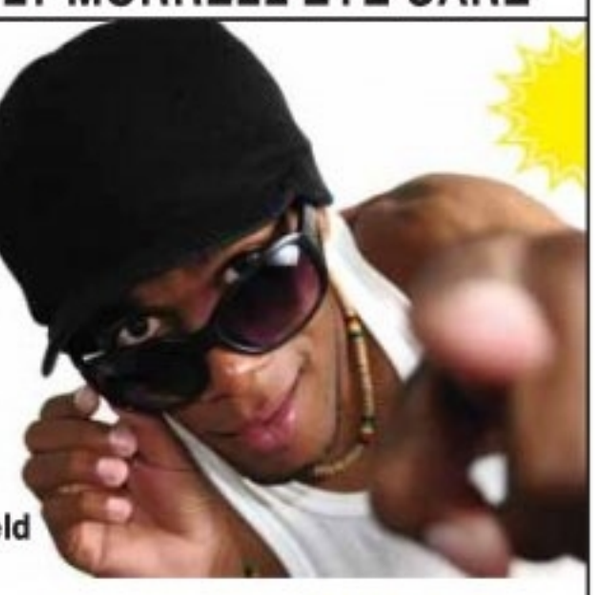

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GET A NATURAL LOVE RUSH

Sometimes the simplest way to drop the "baditude" and bring on the happiness can come through an everyday action. Certain actions activate oxytocin — aka, the love hormone — which is known to induce feelings of trust and a sense of bonding. Oxytocin also helps you relax and reduces blood pressure and cortisol levels. Its anti-anxiety effects support growth, healing and overall happiness. When you're feeling funky, oxytocin can turn your mood around, make you feel more connected and revive your overall energy.

There are a few natural ways to rev up the oxytocin engine when you've got the blues. These tips can be applied anywhere, anytime. Take a minute for a miracle and let the love hormone lead the way.

Place your hand over your heart

By putting your own hand on your heart you stimulate the love hormone, which sends out the inner signal that it's safe to calm down. Once you place your hand onto your heart, breathe deeply. As you breathe, imagine feelings of love, compassion and ease passing over you. Placing your hand on your heart can calm down the crazy.

Flaunt your pearly whites

A genuine, heartfelt smile can connect you to a complete stranger. Smile at people you know and at strangers. Just express authentic, heart-centered grace through the generous gesture of a smile. In an instant, you'll feel love rush in.

Hugs aren't reserved for boyfriends and girlfriends. / COLOURBOX

Try this

Hug it out

Another great way to stimulate oxytocin is to give someone a 20-second hug — it's that simple. Make sure the hug is reciprocated: It's important that the gesture ignites a sense of connection, which will in turn stimulate oxytocin. Hug your lover, your best friend or even your pet. The sweet connection between two beings can totally change your mood.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

Study notes

There's plenty of BC gear, but no Smokey the Bear hat in Boston College's "Happy" video. / PROVIDED

Hackers beware

The new Cybersecurity Institute at Drexel University aims to address national cyber threats and train the next generation of cybersecurity leaders. The Philadelphia school is devoting 4,000 square feet of space as its primary hub for research, teaching and training. Emerging threats and risks will be examined through hands-on simulations of cyber attacks in its research laboratory.

Drexel isn't the only school ramping up the focus on cybersecurity, either. Fordham University also announced a new cybersecurity master's program in their School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

A pledge to end dangerous habits

The prestigious Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was given the onerous title of "deadliest frat in America" in 2013, but they are looking to change that. After reports emerged in 2012 about myriad alcohol-related deaths and pledge practices akin to torture, the 158-year-old organization decided to end their pledge practices across its 226 chapters. The frat, however, has not explicitly mentioned the deaths, instead highlighting a desire to "eliminate a class structure between our new members and our active members," according to the frat's announcement.

C'mon, get happy!

Boston College students, faculty and staff are going viral. They spent six days visiting 32 campus locations and grooved to Pharrell Williams' Oscar-nominated hit, "Happy." Four days after posting the video to the Boston College YouTube channel, the video had more than 100,000 views. Now at 146,552 views and counting, the dance moves even inspired the Twitter hashtag, #BCHappy. As for Pharrell's Vivienne Westood hat? That's optional. VICKI SALEMI

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Career. Best-selling author Austin Kleon teaches you how to get your work noticed.

Austin Kleon / PROVIDED

You write, you paint, you compose — but who really cares besides you? With a few good tips from writer and artist Austin Kleon's latest book, you just might get noticed among all the other artists out there. We asked Kleon, author of "Steal Like an Artist," for his best advice.

Tell good stories

"We have this mistaken impression that our work speaks for itself, that if we just do good work that is enough. But our work doesn't speak for itself; the stories that we tell about the work we do totally influences the way people accept our work and what they think about [it]. As far as becoming better storytellers, the best thing to do it just to surround yourself with really good storytellers. Spend time seeking out people who are good at telling stories and start studying them. There are really only so many kinds of stories. Once you start studying them and reading them, you'll find that they all have a structure and they all have shape. You can kind of steal the structure of the stories and fill them in with your own material. Another thing that can help is becoming a writer. Spend some time writing, blogging or keep a journal. When you're writing down your stories you figure out what's interesting about them."

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to make sure it's an act of generosity, and that what you're sharing is either interesting or useful to the people on the other end. When I say 'share something small every day' it can be something very small. Just one little piece of your process that you think might be interesting or helpful for someone else. Some of the writers I follow share their favorite sentence that they read every day. Or an artist will just share a page from their sketchbook. Little bits and pieces you can share every day that put yourself out there and keep people up to date with what you're doing. It's kind of similar to how a filmmaker will share the DVD extras — the deleted scenes and the directors' commentaries — while they were still making the movie."

Power through

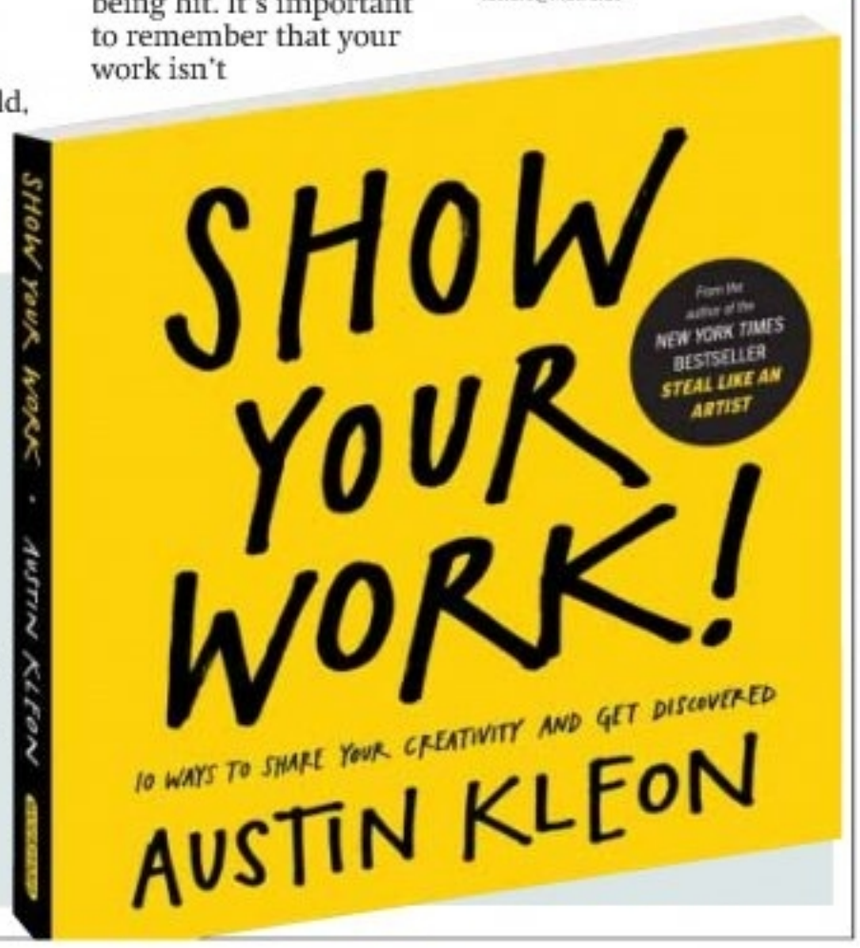
Stick around

"I think that in this culture, we're very much obsessed with overnight success. But when you start digging in to people's stories, there's a lot of work and a lot of practice that happens before people get discovered or get success. I think it's really important just to give yourself time. You're not going to start a blog and then it'll take off right away. You're going to have to give it time. It took me years before people saw my poems. I just kept making work and kept putting it out there. And slowly, over time, people who were looking for work like that found it. A lot of success is merely sticking around long enough to let it happen to you."

Toughen up

"When you put your work out into the world, you have to be ready for the good, the bad and the ugly. I feel that sharing your work on the whole is a very pleasant and good experience, but you're always going to take a punch, so to speak. You really just have to get your work out there and experience what it's like to have people see it and talk about it. The way to take a punch is to get hit a lot. Get used to being hit. It's important to remember that your work isn't you. People feel really close to their work, but you have to remember that the products of your work aren't necessarily you personally. So, when people tear down your work, they're not necessarily tearing down you."

LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us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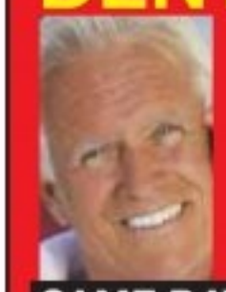
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't feel overwhelmed by recent events. Take a step back from all the commotion in order to focus.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. It's a good day to finish a project you've left dangling. Bypass personality problems so that you can keep moving forward. Work as a team player.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. A promising career opportunity is apparent, although it may require a shift in vocation. Your past achievements have not gone unnoticed.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You need to stop romanticizing the past. The future can be just as rewarding if you think and act progressively.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. It's good to have strong opinions, but don't force your will on others. Accentuate the positive and offer people a little kindness and consideration.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You will have to take bold steps if you want to move forward. You might need to enlist your friends and relatives to aid you.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You are in an upswing right now. If you keep a positive attitude, you will be able to accomplish everything you set out to do.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. It's a great day to try something new. Shake out the cobwebs and investigate some different yet appealing activities.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You may be reluctant to take on a new project, even though you have all the skills and resources necessary for success. Believe in yourself.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Being too outspoken will lead to trouble. Take extra care when dealing with colleagues. An innocuous comment may be seen as an insult.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. An issue that you thought was settled will resurface. Do whatever it takes to improve on your past performance.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Diligence, not speed, will be the order of the day. Despite your enthusiasm you should proceed slowly.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	1		6	8		4	3	
			2		4	1		
					1	8	9	
			5			2		
		7	8	1	9	5		
		8			7			
	6	9	1					
		5	9		3			
	8	1		5	2		6	

				4	7	8		
		1	3				6	
5				1	8		2	9
7				6		3		
	4						7	
		8		3				6
6	8		4	2				5
	1				6	2		
		3	1	7				

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

The people, not Reagan, broke up the USSR

Re: 'Don't appease Putin' (Metro, March 14-16) Letter writer John Francis Fox indicates we should not appease Putin, likening the invasion of Crimea to Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. Wouldn't a better analogy be Bush's invasion of Iraq? All Putin would have to say is "WMD" and invade, right?

However, that is beside my main objection to his letter. He also said the administration under President Reagan liberated the Ukraine, but nothing could be further from the truth. The breakup of the Soviet Union was caused by widespread general strikes in the eastern bloc, including the Ukraine, Poland, Romania and others. In Poland, it was spearheaded by Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity trade union, with support of the Catholic Church. Reagan had nothing to do with this populist revolution.

If Mr. Fox continues his belief that Reagan caused the breakup of the Soviet Union, he should also believe that King Louis XVI of France and King Charles III of Spain liberated the American colonies from Britain during the American Revolution.

TIMOTHY LAREN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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Crossword

Across

1 Type of wrestler
5 QB objectives
8 South Seas locale
12 Bit of fruitcake
14 Novelist — Ambler
15 Fiesta shouts
16 Good-bye
17 Fluttery flier
18 Unwelcome mail
19 Results (2 wds.)
21 Discounted (2 wds.)
23 Coll. credits
24 Pigeon talk
25 — and don'ts
26 Hurried away
30 Makes smooth
32 On even terms
33 Implored
37 Reunion attendee
38 Tryst keeper
39 Too glib
40 Made
42 Stone pillar
43 Infuriate
44 Blew over
45 Nine-digit ID
48 Disencumber
49 Geol. formations
50 Tremors
52 Prigs
57 Caesar's bear
58 Knots
60 British Museum's — Marbles
61 Microbiology gel
62 Doctrines
63 Ms. Reese
64 Spill the beans
65 Ernesto Guevara
66 Fathomless

Down

1 A word to kitty
2 Karachi language
3 California's — Woods
4 Portent
5 Slow gait
6 Morse click
7 Tall beer glass
8 Watch pockets
9 Work by Homer
10 Simple dessert (hyph.)
11 Castaways' refuges
13 Orchard unit
14 Green-egg layers
20 Airport code for O'Hare
22 Leaf juncture
24 Scoped out
26 Fell on — ears
27 Soft color
28 Lies on the beach
29 — yoga
30 Break off
31 Lairds and lassies
33 Prepared fish
34 Scurries along
35 Vogue rival
36 Did Easter eggs
38 Of detailed planning
41 About, in memos (2 wds.)
42 Gave some lip
44 Qt. parts
45 Crouch
46 Voltage jump
47 Kind of congestion
49 Rumple
51 Auto pioneer — Benz
52 Wife, in law
53 Implored
54 Eye amorously
55 Shower square
56 Cinch
59 Suffix for "boy"

Weekend's answer

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St. Joe's wins A-10, earns No. 10 seed

NCAA. The Hawks clinched a tournament berth with a win over VCU Sunday, will face UConn Thursday.

There was never any doubt.

Once St. Joseph's eliminated Virginia Commonwealth 65-61 in the championship game of the Atlantic 10 tournament yesterday at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, this much was known: The Hawks were going dancing.

Quoted

"We're ready to go. We don't care who we have to play. We're going to prepare for them for either Thursday or Friday, let the ball tip up and let's go."

Langston Galloway

Heading into the conference tournament, it was a whole different scenario. Nothing was certain.

St. Joe's was 21-9 and had suffered consecutive losses to George Washington and city rival La Salle.

But the Hawks went back to work and won the program's second conference tournament title under coach Phil Martelli. The last one came in 1997.

St. Joe's received a No. 10 seed in the East Region and it will meet No. 7 Connecticut (26-8) in Buffalo on Thursday.

A fascinating subplot has a potential Holy War rematch against Villanova with a win over the Huskies. The No. 2 Wildcats (28-4) will play No. 15 Milwaukee (21-13).

For now, it's all about celebrating the moment.

St. Joe's senior Halil Kanacevic was named the Most Valuable Player of the Atlantic 10 tournament after breaking a record with 43 rebounds in its three games.

"It's truly an honor to come in here and win these three games," St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli told reporters after the tournament victory. "I couldn't be happier for, not just the seniors, but this whole group. They have been an easy group to work with and I'm delighted that we'll have another chance to work and play again."

Momentum can be altered in a nanosecond. Just look at how the regular season ended and how the Hawks thrived in the conference tournament.

As far as the Hawks are concerned, the trip to Buffalo will be the best road trip of the season.

And they're hoping to make another run in the Big Dance.

The Hawks raise their first A-10 Championship trophy since 1997 and make their first NCAA berth in six years. / GETTY IMAGES

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@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

3 SPORTS

Flyers sweep

Flyers win two vs. Penguins

The Flyers completed a home-and-home weekend sweep of the first-place Penguins Sunday with a 4-3 win in Pittsburgh. The Flyers are now 8-1-1 since the Penguins opened their new arena and shut down Pittsburgh's NHL-best power play (0-9) to move into second place.

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Second round: March 20-21 | **Third round: March 22-23** | **Regional Semifinals: March 27-28** | **Regional Finals: March 29-30** | **National Semifinals: April 5** | **National Championship: April 7**

First round: March 18

16 Albany (18-14)
16 Mt. St. Mary's (16-16)

12 NC State (21-13)
12 Xavier (21-12)

First round: March 19

16 Cal Poly (13-19)
16 Texas So. (19-14)

12 Iowa (20-12)
12 Tennessee (21-12)

SOUTH

1 Florida (32-2)
16 Albany/MSM
8 Colorado (23-11)
9 Pittsburgh (25-9)
5 VCU (26-8)
12 SF Austin (31-2)
4 UCLA (26-8)
13 Tulsa (21-12)
6 Ohio State (25-9)
11 Dayton (23-10)
3 Syracuse (27-5)
14 W. Mich. (23-9)
7 New Mexico (27-6)
10 Stanford (21-12)
2 Kansas (24-9)
15 E. Kentucky (24-9)

WEST

Arizona (30-4) **1**
Weber St. (19-11) **16**
Gonzaga (28-6) **8**
Okla. St. (21-12) **9**
Oklahoma (23-9) **5**
ND St. (25-6) **12**
SDSU (29-4) **4**
NMSU (26-9) **13**
Baylor (24-11) **6**
Nebraska (19-12) **11**
Creighton (26-7) **3**
La. Laf. (23-11) **14**
Oregon (23-9) **7**
BYU (23-11) **10**
Wisconsin (26-7) **2**
American (20-12) **15**

EAST

1 Virginia (28-6)
16 C. Carolina (21-12)
8 Memphis (23-9)
9 Geo. Wash. (24-8)
5 Cincinnati (27-6)
12 Harvard (26-4)
4 Mich. St. (26-8)
13 Delaware (25-9)
6 UNC (23-9)
11 Providence (23-11)
3 Iowa St. (26-7)
14 NC Cent. (28-5)
7 UConn (26-8)
10 St. Joe's (24-9)
2 Villanova (28-4)
15 Milwaukee (21-13)

MIDWEST

Wichita St. (34-0) **1**
Cal Poly/Tex. So. **16**
Kentucky (24-10) **8**
K. State (20-12) **9**
St. Louis (26-6) **5**
NC State/Xavier **12**
Louisville (29-5) **4**
Manhattan (25-7) **13**
UMass (24-8) **6**
Iowa/Tennessee **11**
Duke (26-8) **3**
Mercer (26-8) **14**
Texas (23-10) **7**
Ariz. St. (21-11) **10**
Michigan (25-8) **2**
Wofford (20-12) **15**

The Wildcats and Tony Chennault will start their journey for a Final Four appearance Thursday against Milwaukee. / GETTY IMAGES

Villanova nabs No. 2 seed in East

NCAA. The Wildcats could face St. Joe's in the third round if they take care of Milwaukee Thursday.

It was clear after their upset loss to Seton Hall early in the Big East tournament that Villanova relinquished their shot at a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

However, a No. 2 seed isn't a bad consolation prize.

"It was really crazy," Villanova head coach Jay Wright said of last week's loss CBS's Selection Sunday show. "I hope it's a blip. We played our best game of the year against Georgetown the last regular season game of the year, then we went into [the Seton Hall] game. ... We've had great practices since, we're in a great frame of mind, we are fired up about the tournament."

The Wildcats will start their journey in Buffalo Thursday against Milwaukee, winners of the Horizon League tournament.

Though 15-seeds have shown it's possible to upset a heavily favored second seed, the Wildcats hope they can start their NCAA tournament strong and avoid having a bad outing, like they did against the Pirates.

"In tournament play, when you have one bad night shooting, if that's what you're relying on, it's over," the coach said. "You have to have a mentality that you can win, with our defensive rebounding if we don't make shots."

If the Wildcats prevail in their opener, they could have a familiar foe waiting in round three.

Villanova will face the winner of St. Joseph's and UConn. In two matchups this season, the Wildcats beat the Hawks twice by seven and three points, respectively.

EVAN MACY
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Delaware heads west

Delaware gets No. 13 seed, will face Spartans

The Blue Hens are traveling a long way as they make their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1999.

Hopping a flight west to Spokane, Wash, the Blue Hens will take on No. 4 Michigan State as one of four No. 13 seeds.

Devon Saddle / GETTY IMAGES

The Hens have a potent offense, ranked 24th in the entire country, and posted a 25-9 record playing in the Colonial Conference.

In addition to winning their conference tournament, they are currently riding a five-game winning streak — and earlier in the season, the team tallied off a 13-game streak mid-season.

Historically, Delaware has never won an NCAA Tournament game in four attempts.

Two players to watch as Delaware takes to the national spotlight Thursday are Devon Saddler and Davon Usher, each averaging 19 points per game.

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SOUTH REGION

The South features plenty of star power, with traditional powers like Florida (two titles), Syracuse (one title), Arizona (one title), Kansas (three titles) and UCLA (11 titles). It also features two of the top freshmen in the tournament.

Favorite to watch: Florida — The Gators are the odds-on favorites to win the Big Dance and reclaim the glory coach Billy Donovan established in 2006 and 2007.

WIGGINS IS A DYNAMIC ATHLETE AND HIGH-FLYING POWER DUNKER.
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Underdog to watch: New Mexico — The Lobos don't get much attention in the East, but they have a very good team year in and year out. Don't be surprised to see them beat an undermanned Kansas team in the third round.

Player you know: Andrew Wiggins — The likely No. 1-overall pick in this June's NBA Draft will have just one tournament to get it right. The freshman won't be sticking around Lawrence, Kansas, for a repeat performance.

Player you should know: Kyle Anderson — The UCLA guard/forward was a rare big-time recruit who stuck around for a second season. The 6-foot-9 wing — and sometimes point guard — is an impossible matchup.

Upset to watch: No. 12 Stephen F. Austin over No. 5 VCU

Final Four pick: Florida

EAST REGION

No one had Virginia as a No. 1 seed in February, let alone last November. But the Cavaliers won the ACC regular season and knocked off Duke to take the tournament crown.

Favorite to watch: Michigan State — Outside of Louisville, the Spartans may be the hottest team in the country — and they're always dangerous in March.

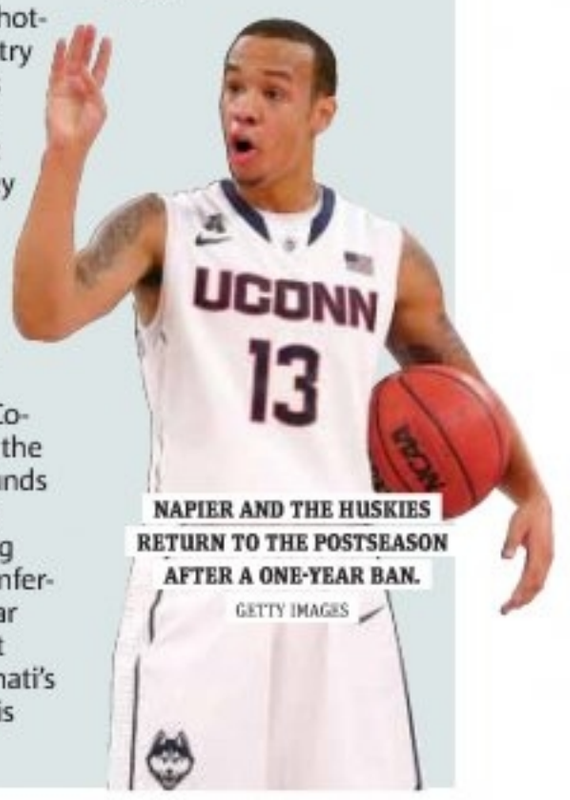
Underdog to watch: Iowa State — Yes, they are ranked higher than the Spartans, but the Cyclones are so good they may make the Final Four.

Player you know: Shabazz Napier — UConn's senior guard led the team in points, rebounds and assists per game on his way to claiming American Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors. He did so just narrowly over Cincinnati's Sean Kilpatrick, who is also in the region.

Player you should know: Bryce Cotton — There is nothing run of the mill about this Cotton. The Providence guard scored 21.4 points per game but was overshadowed by Doug McDermott in the Big East.

Upset to watch: No. 11 Providence over No. 6 North Carolina

Final Four pick: Iowa State



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breakdown

WEST REGION

Arizona claimed the No. 1 seed they were in line for much of the season while others (we're looking at you, Syracuse) faltered.

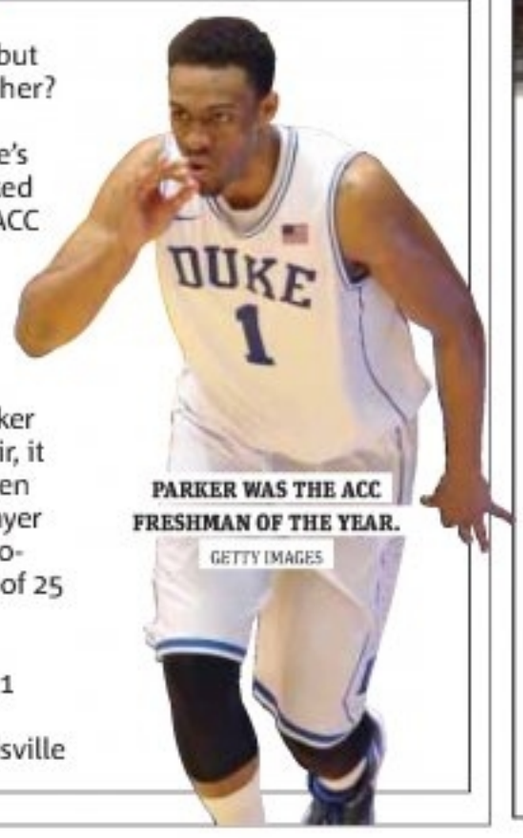
Favorite to watch: Arizona — The Wildcats looked like they were going to be heavy national championship favorites until starter Brandon Ashley went down in February.
Underdog to watch: Oregon — Few team were as up and down as the Ducks started 13-0, lost nine of 11 and finished the regular season with seven straight wins, including big ones over Arizona State, UCLA and Arizona.
Player you know: Marcus Smart — The Oklahoma State sophomore made national headlines for shoving a fan last month, but he's also a lottery pick in this year's draft.
Player you should know: Shawn Long — One of the most-versatile players in the country, Louisiana-Lafayette's Shawn Long posts 10 rebounds per game and shoots 44 percent from 3-point range.
Upset to watch: No. 11 Nebraska over No. 6 Baylor
Final Four pick: Arizona

SMART WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOTTERY PICK IF HE HAD COME OUT LAST SEASON, BUT DECIDED TO STICK AROUND.
GETTY IMAGES

MIDWEST REGION

The Midwest is highlighted by the 34-0 Wichita State Shockers. Congratulations, now you get Louisville, Duke and Michigan in your region.

Favorite to watch: Louisville — Las Vegas oddsmakers are already picking the defending champions — an absurdly underrated No. 4 seed — to win the region.
Underdog to watch: Kentucky — We know they'll have more McDonald's All Americans than any team they face, but can they come together?
Player you know: Jabari Parker — Duke's super freshman looked superhuman in the ACC tournament. He'll be in the NBA next season.
Player you should know: T.J. Warren — For all the talk of Parker and Syracuse's C.J. Fair, it was N.C. State's Warren who won the ACC Player of the Year. The sophomore scored just shy of 25 points per game.
Upset to watch: No. 8 Kentucky over No. 1 Wichita State
Final Four pick: Louisville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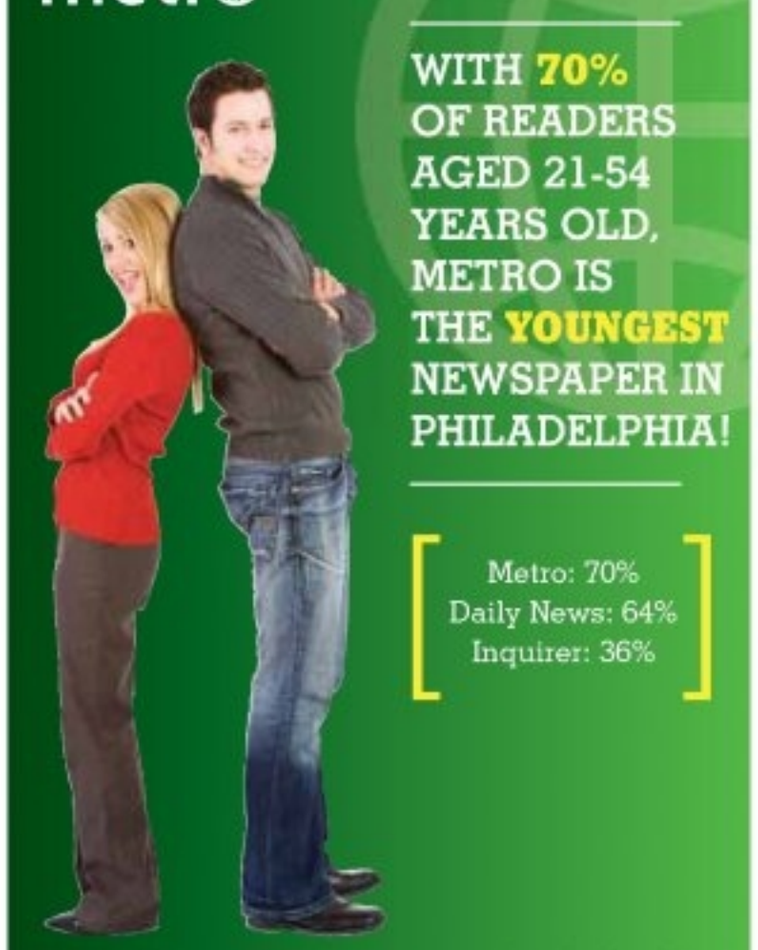
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Notices

Name Change Notice
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, February term 2014, No. 002839.

Notice is hereby given that on 2/27/2014 the petition of: Benjamin Ikpanw osa Prince was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Benjamin I.O. Prince-Oyakhire.

The Court has fixed courtdate, 4/7/2014 at 12:30 a.m. in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they ahve, why the prayer of the said petion should not be granted.

Have you or a loved one been diagnosed with schizophrenia?

If so, contact us today to learn about clinical research studies of investigational schizophrenia medications for adults ages 18 to 65.

Qualified participants receive
all study-related medical care and investigational medication at no cost.

Qualified participants may receive
total compensation ranging from $3,000 to $10,000 for time and travel.

For more information, call toll-free **1.888.442.9012**

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Do you have chronic pain after experiencing a traumatic event, such as a car accident, sports injury or surgery?

Has a doctor ever told you that you have post-traumatic peripheral neuropathic pain?

If so, please contact us about our research study.

Qualified participants must:
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have had chronic, post-traumatic peripheral neuropathic pain for more than 6 months
- Be available for study visits and phone calls over a 17-week period

Insurance is not required and transportation may be available to adults who qualify.

Qualified participants receive:
- Study-related care and investigational medication or placebo at no cost
- Reimbursement for clinical trial-related expenses

For more information, call toll-free **1.866.362.4467**

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Are you **age 65***or older?*

If so, we need your help.

Right now, we're enrolling participants 65 years of age and older in important research studies of investigational medications.

Qualified participants must:
- Be at least 65 years of age.

Transportation is available.

Qualified participants receive:
- All study related evaluations and medication at no cost.
- Compensation from $700 to $4,000 for those who qualify

The persons depicted are models used only for illustrative purposes.

For more information, call toll-free **1.866.680.6672**

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